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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE IN TIME OF WAR.

EXECUTIVE ORDER MAKING THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE A PART OF
THE MILITARY FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Under the authority of the act of Congress approved July 1, 1902, and subject to the limitations therein expressed, it is ordered that hereafter in times of threatened or actual war the Public Health Service shall constitute a part of the military forces of the United States, and in times of threatened or actual war the Secretary of the Treasury may, upon request of the Secretary of War or the Secretary of the Navy, detail officers or employees of said service for duty either with the Army or the Navy. All the stations of the Public Health Service are hereby made available for the reception of sick and wounded officers and men, or for such other purposes as shall promote the public interest in connection with military operations.

[Signed]

WOODROW WILSON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, 3 April, 1917.

STANDARD MORBIDITY TABLES.

THEIR SIGNIFICANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

The purpose of a health department is to maintain the population, in so far as possible, in a condition of physical well-being or, what amounts to the same thing, to prevent the occurrence of disease.

Either to maintain the health of the population or to prevent the further occurrence or spread of disease, it is necessary that the places in which cases of disease are occurring and the conditions under which they occur be known and investigated. Not only must the places and conditions where disease is occurring be known, but the times of the year when disease is most prevalent and the sex and age, as well as the occupations, of those most frequently attacked must be known. In localities having satisfactory registration of deaths health officers have in the past been in the habit of studying these things as regards cases of disease which happen to terminate fatally. There has usually been no similar study of the far more numerous cases which terminate in recovery. Study has been limited to the fatal cases because there were usually available what

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